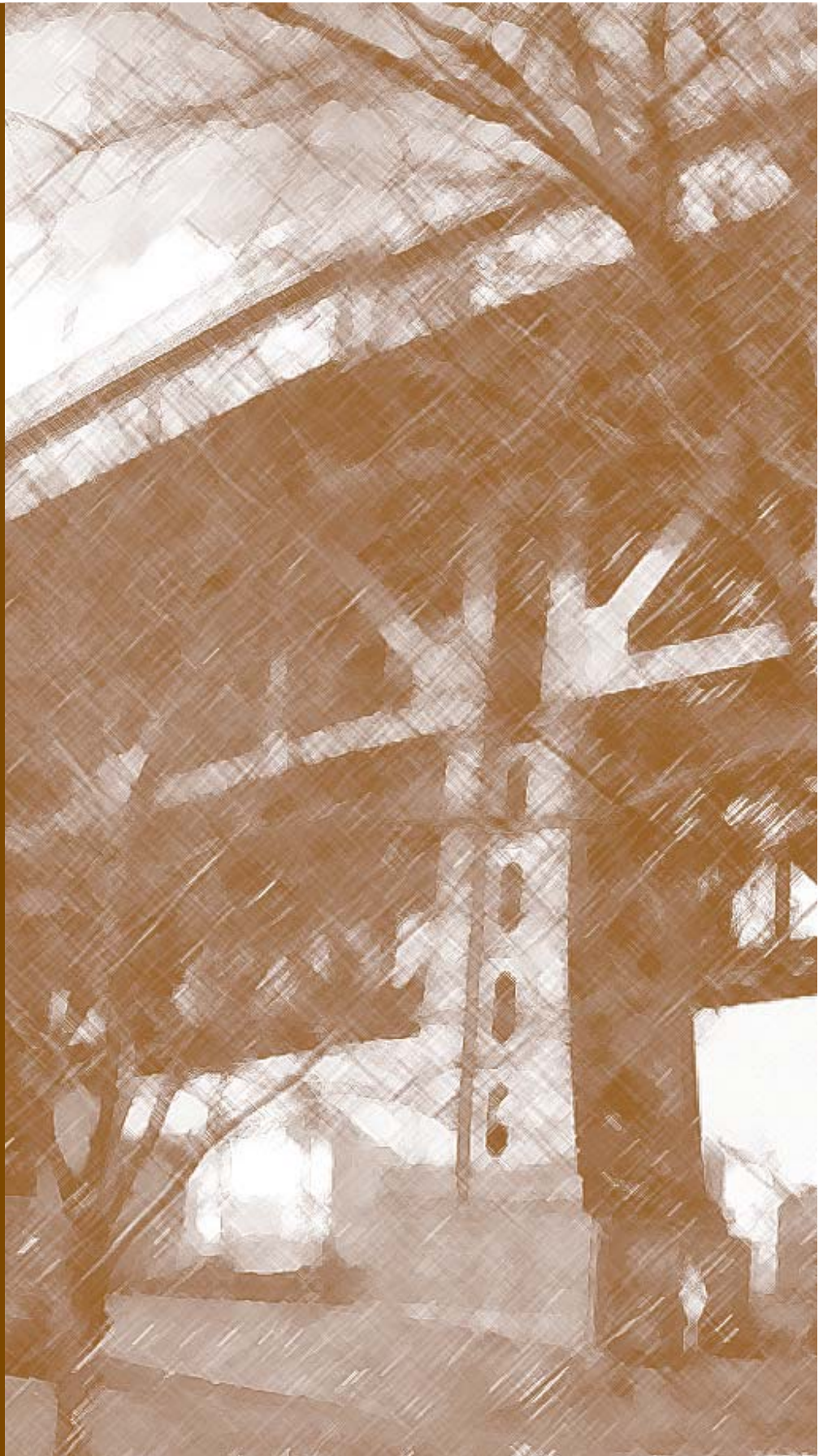


“In the end,
our society will be
defined not only
by what we create
but by what we
refuse to destroy.”



John Sawhill



THE BASIN PLAN

Purpose, Structure and Use

The purpose of the Basin Plan is to provide a unified framework for addressing and redressing new and historic water resource issues and problems in the Delaware River Basin. The Plan emphasizes an integrated approach, recognizing for example, that water supply and water quality cannot be managed separately; that ground water and surface water are two aspects of the same resource, separated in time and space, but fundamentally interrelated. Integrated management means considering all aspects of the water resource in decision-making. Conversely, it means recognizing that a wide range of decisions — not just those traditionally associated with water management — can affect our water resources. This Plan is based on the premise that the river that divides us also brings us together.

Organization and Use of the Plan: The Plan sets a direction for policy and management decisions over the next 30 years and should be used as a guide for policy setting, decision-making and prioritizing actions originating from governmental units, private entities, organizations, and individuals. It forms a framework within which existing and new programs can be incorporated and coordinated for effective results. It also may lead to new areas of research and study to support the achievement of the Desired Results.

To a large extent this Plan builds on the successes of a variety of existing and ongoing efforts, including the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the Delaware Estuary, and the management plans for the 152 miles of the Delaware River that are included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The Plan is prefaced by a set of Guiding Principles that form the foundation for water resource management. Policy changes and actions to implement the Goals and Objectives of this Plan should be judged against the Guiding Principles.

The main body of this Plan is divided into five interrelated Key Result Areas. As Figure 1 illustrates, although unique in some aspects these areas are interrelated and attention to each of the five areas of concern is essential for the improvement of water resources management. An outcome statement — the Desired Result — is articulated for each Key Result Area, with a set of Goals and Objectives essential to achieving the Desired Results for the Basin's water resources. The structure is illustrated in Figure 2.

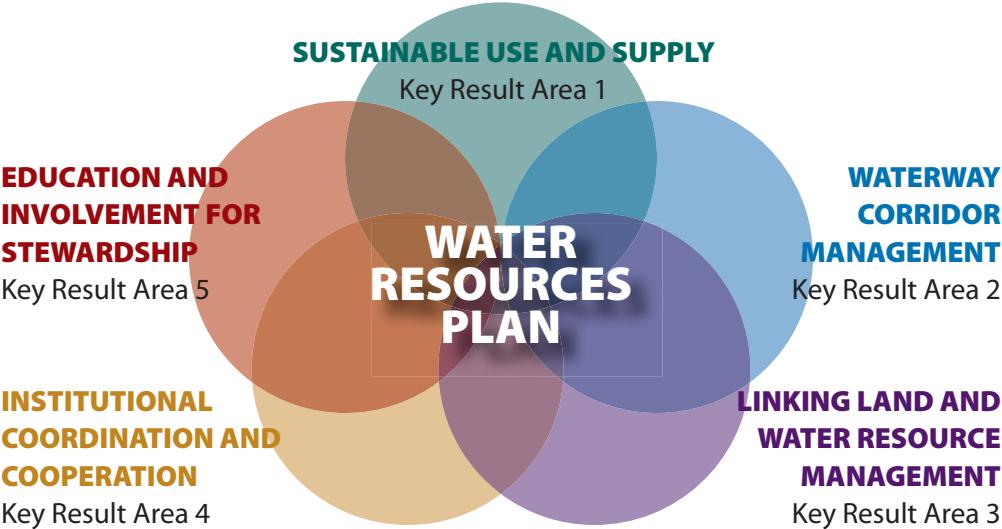
The narrative for each Key Result Area identifies the water resource issues related to the Desired Result and how the concept of integrated management should be applied. The text accompanying each Goal explains the major tasks and challenges for achieving the Goal, and provides background for a set of Objectives. Objectives, those actions necessary for achieving the Goals, are listed in the "Matrix of Goals and Objectives" (Matrix).

Each Goal and Objective has an identification number to relate it to a principal Key Result Area. The number is strictly for convenience and reference and does not imply any priority within this Plan. The Matrix also includes proposed milestones, dates and outcomes for each Objective and suggested time frames for interim and long-term results. The final column cross-references other Goals with which a



Purpose, Structure and Use

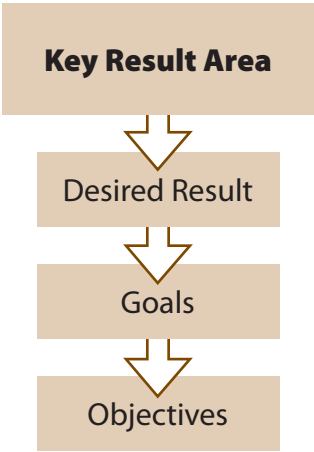
Figure 1: The Five Key Result Areas



given Objective is associated, because Objectives can relate to more than one Goal. The interrelationships noted in the Matrix highlight the application of integrated management, the theme of this Plan.

The Importance of Integrated Management: The concept of integrated management is used throughout the Plan. Integrated management means acknowledging links among topics or concerns and combining or incorporating this consideration when assessing options, and developing policy and management plans. Like water itself, managing our water resources must infiltrate everything we do because the results of our actions are interconnected. Integrated management motivates the development of a greater range of alternatives and can be more cost effective than a traditional single-issue approach to resource management. An explanation of integrated management in the context of each Key Result Area is found in the narrative for each section. In the Matrix, Objectives are listed under the Goals with which they are most directly associated. The actions required to achieve the Goals are numerous, varied and may seem disconnected from one another. But we know that the results of our actions are not isolated. In the Matrix, the column entitled “Supports Goal” lists other Goal(s) associated with each Objective, underscoring the interrelated nature of water resources management. This Plan provides a framework for understanding the many connections — particularly those linking water and land — and for integrating our actions to achieve a shared vision for the Delaware River Basin.

Figure 2: Water Resources Plan Organization



The Basin Plan Map: The “Watershed Regions of the Delaware River Basin” map, which accompanies this Plan, illustrates the river’s unifying nature by assembling the Basin’s many watersheds — areas drained by a single waterway or watercourse — into groups, or sub-basins, and by gathering sub-basins into regions. The watershed groupings are based on considerations of hydrologic boundaries, physiographic provinces, development patterns and current cataloging of water quality data.

The map is useful for characterizing and assessing baseline conditions, for prioritizing issues, for developing regionally and locally specific strategies, and for forming partnerships for implementation. Like this Plan, the map is designed to help us think outside traditional political and programmatic boxes. The map encourages us to think in terms of our watershed address — of our relationship to the river, its tributaries and watersheds, and how our plans and actions depend on and affect these resources.

Moving from Plan to Action: The final section of the Basin Plan document discusses the actions necessary to improve water resources management, and to make the Desired Results of this Plan a reality. Roles and responsibilities will be described more clearly when specific implementation strategies are developed, but the actions that each governmental level, private sector entity and individual should explore are noted in the final section of this Plan.

The Resolution of 1999 that directed the development of the “Water Resources Plan for the Delaware River Basin” also directed calls for the development of a periodic report on progress. In order to account for progress, relevant indicators must be chosen, monitored and reported. Indicators help to assess how well the management strategies are working, and where additional efforts might be needed.

